
Happy Birthday American Legion; Post 201 to Celebrate with Pizza Before Tonight's Meeting.

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Special Edition - - Tuesday, March 15, 2022

American Legion Marks 103rd Birthday Today

Post to Celebrate with Pizza Before 7 p.m. General Membership Meeting

March 15, 1919 - - the day when the American Legion was born. One hundred and three years ago today, the Legion was founded in Paris, the "City of Lights," when the Legion's first caucus was held by a committed group of U.S. veterans of the Great War - - - and this was the beginning of the Legion growing to be a shining light for communities around the world ever since.

Tonight, Post 201 members will celebrate the Legion's birthday with pizza served in the ballroom prior to the 7 p.m. monthly General Membership meeting. The Post will be providing the pizza; however, members are invited to bring a "pot luck" dish to the celebration if they would like to do so.

At the meeting itself, members will be asked to vote on a proposed By-Laws amendment that would add the following text as a new Paragraph 9 to Article III - Post Executive Committee:

"Section 9. The Executive Committee will maintain Minutes of each of their meetings and provide a written copy thereof at the next Regular Business Meeting of the Post for review, comment, and acceptance by the members and the presentation of motions to adopt any or all recommendations contained therein." To read the current By-Laws, [click here](#).

Capsule History of the American Legion's First 102 Years

A group of 20 officers who served in the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) in France during World War I is credited with founding the Legion. AEF Headquarters asked the officers to suggest ideas on how to improve troop morale.

One officer, Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt Jr., proposed an organization of veterans. In February 1919, the group formed a temporary committee and selected several hundred officers who had the confidence and respect of the whole army.

About 1,000 officers and enlisted men attended the Paris Caucus in March 1919. They adopted a temporary Constitution and the name The American Legion. The group also elected an executive committee to complete the organization's work. It considered each soldier of the AEF a member of the Legion. The executive committee named a subcommittee to organize veterans at home in the United States.

In May 1919, the Legion held a second organizing caucus in St. Louis. It completed the constitution and made plans for a permanent organization, setting up a temporary headquarters in New York City and beginning its relief, employment and Americanism programs.

Congress granted the Legion a national charter on Sept. 16, 1919. The first national convention convened in Minneapolis on November 10-12, 1919, adopting a permanent constitution and electing officers to head the organization. Delegates also voted to locate the Legion's national headquarters in Indianapolis, Ind.

Today, membership stands at more than two million in over 13,000 posts worldwide. Posts are organized into 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico and the Philippines.

During the years since its 1919 birth, the American Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced many important programs for children and youth as it continues to support the four pillars of service and advocacy upon which it was founded: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth.

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***"It's not the price you pay to be a member,  
It's the price you paid to be eligible."***

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2022 - Post 201
75th Anniversary Year
Nov. 26, 1947 - Nov. 26, 2022



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